

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th February 2020
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present:			
Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr M Woollard MW	Arrived 19.45
Cllr J Barber JB		Cllr F Lynch-Smith FLS	
Cllr J Hughes JH		Cllr R Kipling RK	
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair welcomed Councillors, Members of the Public and invited guests. Apologies received from Cllr Nunn.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members noted apologies from Cllr Nunn.

2. Public Participation

Invited guests: Fiona Woolston (LM Engagement Manager), Rachel Johnson (HS2 Community Engagement Manager) and Hayden Wright (BBV Community Engagement Manager).

The team provided an update and overview of HS2 build. The recent review concluded the project will go ahead and work will continue on M42 junction 6, A446 and A452. Work is already progressing the new road layouts and station build. The quarterly attendance at parish meetings will continue to provide updates and the community drop-in events are running throughout March, April, May and June. The content of the presentation will be uploaded onto the parish council website along with regular updates sent to the clerk by the HS2 team for residents to access.

The team reminded Members that there are two HS2 funding streams that may be applied to (i) Road Safety Fund and (ii) Community Fund (relevant to local groups).

Chair thanked the team for their attendance and looked forward to welcoming them back in 3 months.

Residents raised the following:-

- The gullies are holding water – particularly evident in Millison’s Wood.

Action: Clerk advised an email has been sent to Neal Thomas, Coventry City Council.

- The drains need clearing throughout the parish but particularly evident Birmingham Road, Main Road and Meriden Hill. Debris now collecting over the drains.

Action: Clerk advised this had been raised at recent Community Surgery and also an email sent to Ed Bradford, Tankers.

Signed Chair **Dated**

- Everywhere is looking neglected and forgotten with verges damaged by HGVs and articulated vehicles negotiating the rural roads to get to commercial premises such as Home Farm and Pettifors.
- Meriden Business Park, Birmingham Road – cars parking on grass verges which are rutted including Barkers overflow car parking on verges and roadside parking.

Chair and clerk responded that all concerns raised have been recorded with Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and will be followed up at next community surgery.

3. Declarations of Interest

3a To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

None.

3b To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature

None.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting – 20th January 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2020 were agreed as an accurate record. All matters arising are covered in the agenda.

IT WAS RESOLVED The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2020 were approved; proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr Lynch-Smith.

5. Finance

5.1 February Payments

Parish Council February payments amounting to £5,389.81 circulated for Members consideration and approval. Highlights include Meriden School donation of £2,000 approved at January's meeting; 1st Meriden Scout Group £450 approved at January's meeting; and VE75 Event merchandise £491.86.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved £5,389.81 for February. Proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Woollard.

Sports Park February payments amounting to £6,329.35 circulated for Members consideration and approval. Highlights included quarterly drainage Water Plus £516.80, Plumbing Force boiler repairs £414 and purchase of Defibrillator for Park £1,698.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved £6,329.35 for February. Proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Kipling.

5.2 Finance Committee Recommendation

5.2(i) Reserves Policy

The revised policy had been circulated to Members with the only change being under General Reserves and the six twelfths of the annual precept figure increasing to £26,292 for financial year 2020-2021 in line with 6% precept increase and annual income. Members agreed with the finance committee recommendation for approval.

Signed Chair **Dated**

Clerk: Barbara Bland

55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ

T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: barbarablandmpc@btconnect.com

www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk



IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved Reserves Policy for 2020-2021 proposed Cllr Kipling and seconded Cllr Hughes.

5.2(ii) Business Plan

Chair advised the business plan circulated remained in draft; she would be grateful if Members could read it and advise comments and additions for inclusion. The Business Plan will then be presented at March meeting for final approval.

Action: Chair to update and have ready for March meeting.

6. Progress Reports

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

FLS reported that all is running smoothly and the next big picture show is Downton Abbey @ £5/ticket.

6.2 War Memorials

Clerk advised the transfer had been processed and the Memorial was now owned by the parish council. Awaited is the signed Transfer Deed for file.

6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding

Clerk reported a positive meeting held with Conservators of National Cyclists Memorial. Funding may be secured from Cycling UK for the purpose of cleaning and maintenance. Centenary event will be 2021. A follow up meeting to be arranged for June.

The funding application to be completed for the Berkswell Road Memorial.

Action: Clerk to complete application for funding.

6.3 Meriden Pool

6.3(i) Friends Group

Friends Group meeting arranged for 10th March 2020 at 09.30 at Pavilion.

Action: Clerk & Friends Group.

6.3(ii) Management & Funding

Nothing to report.

6.4 Allotments

Clerk advised a good meeting with Taylor Wimpey who have now given over the key for the secure storage for allotment users. The concerns of residents regarding parking on grass verges by allotment holders has been addressed with Taylor Wimpey. Unfortunately the land is no longer TWH responsibility and any request for wooden posts is to be made to Trinity, being the management company who maintain the site.

Action: Clerk to contact Zoe Byass at Trinity.

Signed Chair **Dated**

6.5 Footpaths/Forum

FLS reported footpaths are wet. Maps are required for volunteers and clerk requested to speak to Steve Hawley for procurement of A3 maps.

Action: Clerk to contact Steve Hawley for A3 maps for volunteer footpath walkers.

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

The next meeting is to be held on 2nd March 2020. There have been a number of complaints regarding Birmingham Road (Area G) which have been fielded to Bruce Brant and David Wigfield. RK reported the road to be a disgrace with nothing much being done to bring operator into line regarding conditions of licence for highway cleansing. The following response from Mr Wigfield was read to Members by Chair:-

“The usual standard conditions apply, i.e.

(8) No development approved by this permission shall commence until details of a wheelwash have been submitted and approved by the LPA. Submitted details should include how the wheelwash will be constructed and maintained and the facility must be constructed prior to any waste infilling/recycling taking place on site. Provision should also be made for a sweeper to remove mud and debris from highway surfaces namely Birmingham Road and Maxstoke Lane.

In the interests of road safety in accordance with Policy P8 of the Solihull Local Plan 2013.

(9) The site access shall be maintained in a good state of repair and kept clean and free of mud and other deleterious material at all times.

In the interests of road safety in accordance with Policy P8 of the Solihull Local Plan 2013.

(10) No mud or deleterious material shall be deposited on the public highway. In the event that material is inadvertently deposited it shall be removed immediately.

In the interests of road safety in accordance with Policy P8 of the Solihull Local Plan 2013.

The wheel wash is approved and operative, and the site access road is hard surfaced and in good condition. If mud is being deposited on the highway despite that, it is likely to be a prima facie breach of condition 10, but it's difficult to know what more the company could reasonably be expected to do, other than operate their own road sweeper – which they do. Formal action, in the form of an enforcement notice or breach of condition notice, is always a possibility, but should be regarded very much as a last resort, if and when all other attempts to resolve the matter have been tried and failed and there is no co-operation from the company concerned. If they are using

Signed Chair Dated

'best endeavours' then formal action may not be considered reasonable. I don't think we're at that point yet, and even if we were, consideration would need to be given to whether planning enforcement action would be the most effective mechanism to use – I understand that the deposit of mud on a public highway is an offence under the Highways Act in any case, in which case prosecution action under that legislation, by the local highway authority, may be a quicker and more effective option.

Notwithstanding all of the above, it would be a great pity if it ever needed to come to formal action – the purpose of the Liaison Group is to deal with such concerns co-operatively, and so I think it best to make sure it's raised at the next meeting and see what comes of that first. After tomorrow, I'm out of the office until the 9th March – if the concerns remain then, let me know and I'll raise it with Wayne in the first instance, then discuss it with Bruce if necessary.

I did drive along Birmingham Road myself a month ago (15th Jan) and the road was fine on that day – but it's the sort of problem that can vary a lot in a short space of time. I'm sure this exceptionally wet winter must be a significant factor – a lot of similar sites, and construction sites all around the Borough, are also causing muddy roads recently. There's a lot to consider but I hope this is some assistance and will catch-up with you on my return to the office in March."

Action: Clerk, Planning and Highways. The issue will be raised at Quarry Liaison Meeting.

An email received from Mr Bob Williams, on behalf of Midland Mix Concrete, for advertising signage to be placed on Coronation Island was discussed. Whilst Members accepted the discreet small signage currently placed on the island, Solihull MBC's policy for roundabout signage is one of decluttering; therefore after careful consideration the request is to be refused.

Action: Clerk to write to Mr Williams.

6.7 Solihull Area Committee

Chair advised a Parish and Town conference had been organised for 26th February 2020 at The Core, Solihull. The focus of the evening will be "Working in Partnership to Reduce Climate Change".

6.8 Tree Warden & TPO List

Nothing to report.

6.9 Community Surgeries

Community Surgery 10th February 2020 – Hosted by clerk and Bruce Brant at the Pavilion with Cllrs Weaver and Lynch-Smith. There were no resident attendees.

Catch up regarding previous actions & resident concerns:-

Signed Chair **Dated**



- Winspear resident concerns regarding trees interfering with TV/WiFi reception. Bruce Brant investigating with Bromford and SCH.

Action: Bruce Brant sent map and confirms it is not SCH land; therefore a call to Bromford is required by the clerk.

- Gateway signage; a cleansing programme currently being worked on.

Action: Brue Brant

- Stonewater land fly tipping at Maxstoke Bridge.

Action: Clerk

- Leys Lane Footway dangerous as slippery under foot and debris/leaves need collecting/cleansing.

Action: Amey clear pathway confirmed.

- A letter to be drafted to all commercial dog walkers advising of use of dog bins and a contribution to the cost of emptying.

Action: Clerk

- BT Exchange frontage to be included in SMBC programme of works and then grounds work undertaken by parish council to improve and manage area.

Action: Bruce Brant/clerk/ward action plan inclusion.

- Work with Community Development Team for volunteers for street watch and speed watch – sustainability an issue.

Action: Parish Council

- Darlaston Row gullies blocked – recent rainfall entering properties due to blocked gullies and surface water run-off.

Action: Tammy Rowley/Bruce Brant

- Pool levels high and question asked about plate? Bruce recommended emailing Ed Bradford and Chris Edgell.

Action: Clerk to email

- Reports and photographic evidence received from residents regarding rats at the Pool. Bread/food waste continues to be a problem generated but visitors to the Pool feeding the wildfowl.

Action: Clerk to email Chris Edgell and Environmental Health

- The Cypress Trees on Fillongley Road have been damaged in recent Storm Ciara. Inspection requested.

Action: Email to be sent to Darren Parkin – Clerk.

- Birmingham Road (Area G Quarry) – complaints direct to Bruce Brant, Connect and Clerk regarding surface mud and unsafe road conditions. Can we pull off how many complaints received since Christmas for Quarry Liaison Meeting on 2nd March.

Action: Bruce Brant to ask Janet Hawkins for assistance and report back to parish council.

- A45 layby after Garage maintained by SMBC street cleansing; can this be litter picked, cleansed and fly tipping removed.

Action: Bruce Brant

Signed Chair Dated

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6.10 Community Speed Watch

JB reported that two speed watch events have been undertaken with 50 letters sent out to offending drivers by West Midlands Police. It is working well with the Police and Volunteers. An article has been written for the Meriden Mag for more Volunteers needed.

Action: Cllr Barber to liaise with PCSO Hanley for more dates.

6.11 HS2

A full presentation has been given by HS2 representatives at start of meeting. All presentation content may be found on website.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park

Chair reported the next Director’s meeting is to be held on 2nd March 2020.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust

A small grants scheme is available and this has been reported in Meriden Mag and Facebook.

7. Clerk’s Report

The question of EA monitoring equipment arose. The response received from Cllr Howell confirmed the location of air quality monitors are set by the Council’s Air Quality Steering Committee, with input from Councillors. The positions of all monitors are reviewed yearly in February, following which it may be decided to change the position of some monitors or add some additional monitoring locations. This is why the monitor was not moved following concerns last year: it takes many months to collect and cross reference data so it is not good practice to change the position of monitors until a large volume of data has been collected. Air quality is influenced by many factors such as the weather, wind, presence of vegetation that may absorb particles etc.

Action: Clerk to monitor.

8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report.

9. Correspondence & Communication

- Acknowledgement from Meriden School for financial support;
- Acknowledgement from 1st Meriden Scout Group for contribution towards flag raising duties;
- Pensions Regulator – re-enrolment and re-declaration of parish council duties to be completed by 31st March 2020.

10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1 Library Update

Chair reported that the library programme of works continues to roll along with a meeting to be arranged with Property Services in the near future.

Signed Chair **Dated**



Action: Clerk to liaise with Library Services to arrange meeting with Property Services.

10.2 VE75

Chair reported that the wider working group is putting forward ideas and working well. New people are getting involved in village activities and the planning is really positive.

Action: VE75 Core Committee.

10.2(i) WW1 Poppy Memorial Site

Nothing to report.

10.3 Meriden Gate

Nothing to report.

10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)

Clerk reported the footprint of the allotment land transfer has been concluded to include the car parking spaces and storage shed. Clerk has instructed TWH to draw up Deed of Transfer and requested TWH solicitor name so this may be completed.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Richard Beech on allotment land transfer.

10.5 Highways

Nothing to report.

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership

Nothing to report.

10.7 Local Council Award Scheme

Clerk advised NALC has confirmed Gold registration has been accepted with no additional fee to be paid. Therefore work continues on the website to attain Gold Quality Standard.

Action: All

10.7(i) Website

A work in progress to bring up to date, review and refresh content.

Action: JB and clerk.

10.8 Meriden Public & Community Transport

Nothing to report.

10.9 Dementia Friends/First Aiders/Dementia & Autism Training, Business Network

Nothing to report.

11. Planning Matters

11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

Signed Chair **Dated**

RW reported the next meeting of the NDP group is 19th February 2020 at 6.30 pm. The new Chair of NDP is Alderman David Bell. The group is about to put final tweaks in place from external agency comments. With another period of Purdah upon us, there will be a delay in going to Referendum.

Action: NDP Group.

11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid

Chair advised another funding application will be put in to Locality to fund Referendum.

Action: RW.

11.2 Neighbourhood Community/Ward Action Plan

Nothing to report.

11.2(i) Highways Evidence

Nothing to report.

11.3 Solihull Local Plan Review

Chair advised there had been no update; however the CEO is asking parish and town councils to think about what powers they need; the signs from NALC is to strengthen parish and town councils in readiness for negotiation of devolved services. Chair confirm Meriden has made a start with the partnership work of the Pool, Enforcement Officer and taking over some of the open green spaces.

11.4 Planning Application Status Updates

JH reported the following:-

STATUS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED February 2020		
Address	Planning Application	
63 Fillongley Road Meriden Solihull CV7 7LW	PL/2019/01853/PPFL Erect replacement dwelling.	Amended Plans Submitted Parish Council Objected Original Application.
Fordson Farm Harvest Hill Lane Meriden Solihull CV5 9DE	PL/2019/02064/PPFL Secure agricultural store and farm office	REJECTED
Fordson Farm Harvest Hill Lane Meriden Solihull CV5 9DE	PL/2019/02063/PPFL Erect livestock building	APPROVED

Signed Chair Dated



Fordson Farm Harvest Hill Lane Meriden Solihull CV5 9DE	PL/2019/02062/PPFL Relocation and erection of agricultural storage building	APPROVED
33 Alspath Road Meriden Solihull CV7 7LU	PL/2019/02568/MINFHO Two storey front, side and rear extension.	REFUSED
The Woodlands Lodge Green Lane Meriden Solihull CV7 7JG	PL/2019/02631/PPFL Change of use and siting of 12 No. holiday lodge caravans for tourist accommodation associated infrastructure, maintenance shed, office and shop/cafe.	Due to be submitted to planning committee at SMBC on 26 th February.
Grand View Birmingham Road Millisons Wood Solihull CV7 7HY	PL/2019/02983/PPFL New vehicle access to Birmingham Road (Resubmission of PL/2019/01317/PPFL).	APPROVED
Workshop Adjacent The Cottage Eaves Green Lane Meriden Solihull CV7 7JL	PL/2019/03015/DIS Discharge condition No. 4 on planning approval PL/2018/02965/PPFL.	Awaiting Decision
2 Birmingham Road Meriden Solihull CV7 7PE	PL/2020/00059/TPO Weeping willow - prune back to previous pruning points. TPO number 599.	Awaiting Decision
Marlbrook Hall Farm Harvest Hill Lane Meriden Solihull CV7 7HW	PL/2020/00278/DIS Discharge of condition 3a-h.	Neutral

12. Climate Change

Chair advised this subject is the focus for Solihull's conference with parish and town councils. A Task Group would be set up and an article in the Meriden Mag requesting volunteers to come forward has been placed.

Action: RW/JH.

13. Youth Council

Cllr Hughes advised he will be delivering training in March; he would like volunteers as this will be a Borough wide initiative.

Signed Chair **Dated**

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Action: JH.

14. Digital Review

Cllr Hughes advised Breakthrough Communications quotation has been received tonight without any evaluation or circulation to Members. It is suggested that at the next development day this be looked at and a working group formed to consider taking forward a new website incorporating an e-newsletter, chat box and other social media forms for improved community engagement.

Action: All.

15. Parish Council Development Day

Chair advised she would send out some dates for April 2020.

16. Annual Parish Assembly

The date of the Annual Parish Assembly is 27th April 2020 at the Village Hall. The focus of the agenda will be Climate Change.

17. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

Litter Picking Group/Love Solihull – MW

Destruction of grass verges due to large articulated vehicles using rural highways plus flood and broken drain Berkswell Road due to volumes of large vehicles – RK/Paul Tovey.

Enforcement Officer to be directed to Leys Lane for pavement obstruction and other parking issues – RW/Paul Tovey.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 23rd March 2020 at 7.30 pm Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

Chair thanked Councillors and Members of the public for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 21.27 hours.

Signed Chair **Dated**